II. SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the section beginning on page 8, line 1 through page 9, line 7 as rewritten below:

its appropriate actuation. Locking and release mechanism 32 operably connects lever member 24 to force transmitting member 30 for operating the medical device 18 at a location distant from the handle. Locking and release mechanism 32 locks movement of the force transmitting member in one direction 38 after movement of the lever member 24 in locking direction 26. Locking and release mechanism 32 releases movement of the force transmitting member 30 in the one direction 38 after opposite movement of the lever member 24 in a releasing direction 28. Lever member 24 operates the locking and release mechanism 32 releasing the movement of the force transmitting member 30 in the one direction 38 substantially upon changing movement of the lever member 24 from the locking 26 to the releasing direction 28. Locking mechanism 32 locks movement of the force transmitting member 30 at a locking position 40 (see Fig. 2B), located over at least part of the range of motion 42, 44 of lever member 24 after movement of the lever member in first direction 26. Changing the direction of movement of the lever member 24 from first direction 26 where the lever member is at a locking position causes the release mechanism 32 to release movement of force transmitting member 30 (see Fig. 2B). Releasing direction 28 is substantially opposite of locking direction 26. Locking and release mechanism 32 has a pawl 46 and a rack 48 coupled to either force transmitting member 30 or handle 16 respectively. Pawl 46 engages the rack 48 after movement of lever member 24. Pawl 46 disengages the rack 48 after opposite movement of lever member 24. Pawl 46

has camming surface 50. Camming surface 50 is engaged by pin 52 through relative movement between lever member 24 and pawl 46. Locking and release mechanism 32 further comprises a spring 54 biasing pawl 46 to engage rack 48. Force transmitting member 30 is coupled to sliding block 56. Sliding block 56 is constrained to slide relative to frame 16. Rack 48, in the embodiment shown is grounded to frame 16. Pawl ~~54~~ 46 is pivotally coupled to sliding block 56. Link 58 is pivotally coupled to lever 24. Link 58 has pin 60 which slides in slot 62 of sliding block 56. Pin 60 in combination with slot 62 enables camming surface 50 to be engaged by pin 60 through relative movement between lever member 24 and pawl ~~48~~ 46 through link 58 resulting in pawl 46 engaging rack 48 after movement of lever member 24.